

Wal-Mart Supercenter opens to throng of shoppers

Photos by
Chris Matula



There is a large kids' fashion center.



The new Wal-Mart SuperCenter will include 300 employees from throughout the Brazosport Area.



A deli serves those hungry shoppers.

Large variety, longer hours intrigue area residents

By GARY BEENE
The Brazosport Facts

LAKE JACKSON — Area residents can now get their car worked on, go grocery shopping and pick up a pair of shoes — all under one roof.

The Wal-Mart Supercenter at 121 West Highway 332 in Lake Jackson, opened its doors to a huge crowd of people Wednesday.

By 9 a.m. the parking lot was already filled as throngs of people grabbed shopping carts and moved through the brightly lit store.

The local store, the largest of the new prototype Supercenter stores, has 126,632 square-feet. It encompasses about 5 acres of merchandise under its roof, said Rick Quinley, local Supercenter director. The store employs about 600 people. The Supercenter is decked

out in a red, white and blue color scheme. Banners hanging from the ceiling direct people to different areas. Customers also won't have to wait very long in line with 38 checkout counters.

The new facility, which will be open 24 hours a day, offers a full-line grocery store, garden center, pharmacy, vision center, dry cleaners, hair salon, auto service and a one-hour photo lab with a portrait studio.

"It took about five weeks and two days to set to set the store up," Quinley said.

Mayor Doris Williams welcomed the new store during a grand opening speech.

"If there's one word to use to size up this store — it's big," she said. "We appreciate you and we're glad to have you in Lake Jackson."

With the cutting of a blue ribbon and a cheer by Wal-

Mart associates, customers began pouring into the front doors.

Brazoria resident Stephanie Becker was one of the first customers. She likes the 24-hour concept because now her husband can watch the kids at night if she needs to do some shopping.

"I love it," she said. "If I want to get out of the house without the kids I can do it."

Vicki Kilsby of Clute said the store will be good for all the local shift workers. "I think it will great for my husband because he works shift work."

Quinley said the old Wal-Mart store should have all of the merchandise and store fixtures removed in the next few weeks.

Another 121,000 square foot Supercenter is scheduled to open in Angleton possibly by late summer.